

Glossary

Acre-foot: A volume of water equivalent to one acre of land covered to a depth of one foot.

Anadromous fish: Fish that hatch in fresh water rivers and tributaries, migrate to and mature in the ocean, and return to their place of origin as adults to spawn.

Andesite: A gray, fine-grained volcanic rock, chiefly plagioclase and feldspar.

Appropriation: The setting aside of money by Congress, through legislation, for a specific use.

Authorization: House and Senate Public Works Committee resolutions or specific legislation which provides the legal basis for conducting studies or constructing projects. The money necessary for accomplishing the work is not a part of the authorization, but must come from an appropriation by Congress.

Basin: (1) Drainage area of a lake or stream, such as a river basin; (2) A naturally or artificially enclosed harbor for small craft, such as a small-boat basin.

Chukar partridge: A largely gray and black Indian partridge introduced into dry parts of the western U.S.

Concrete-gravity structure: A type of concrete structure in which resistance to overturning and sliding is provided by its own weight.

Confluence: The place where streams meet.

Dam: A barrier constructed across a valley for impounding water or creating a reservoir.

Damages prevented: The difference between damages that would occur without a project and damages occurring with a project in place.

Deep-draft harbor: A harbor designed to accommodate commercial cargo vessels having drafts greater than about 15 feet.

Dike: An embankment to confine or control water and/or soil.

Diversion channel: (1) An artificial channel constructed around a town or other point of high potential flood damages to divert water from the main channel to minimize flood damages; (2) a channel carrying water from a diversion channel.

Downstream: In the direction of the flow of a stream.

Draft: The vertical distance from the waterline to the bottom of a floating vessel.

Dredged material: The material removed in excavation or dredging in access canals, boat or navigation channels, drainage ditches, and lakes.

Earthfill dam: A dam, the main section of which is composed principally of earth, gravel, sand, silt and clay.

Environmental impact statement (EIS): A report required by Section 102(2)(c) of Public Law 91-190 for all federal actions which significantly impact on the quality of the human environment or are environmentally controversial. The EIS is a detailed and formal evaluation of the favorable and adverse environmental and social impacts of a proposed project and its alternatives.

Eutrophication: The process by which a body of water becomes, either naturally or by pollution, rich in dissolved nutrients (such as phosphates) and often shallow with a seasonal deficiency in dissolved oxygen.

Flood plain: Valley land along the course of a stream which is subject to inundation during periods of high water that exceed normal bankfull elevation.

Habitat: The total of the environmental conditions which affect the life of plants and animals.

Impoundment: The collection or confinement of water, as in a lake.

Jetty: A linear placement of large rocks or concrete shapes, usually built at the mouth of a river, to help deepen and stabilize a channel to provide a navigable river entrance.

Left or right bank of river: The left-hand or right-hand bank of a stream when the observer faces downstream.

Levee: A dike or embankment, generally constructed close to the banks of a stream, lake, or other body of water, intended to protect the land side from inundation or to confine the streamflow to its regular channel.

Lift: The difference in elevation between the upstream and downstream water surface levels in a lock and dam system.

Lock: An enclosed part of a canal or waterway equipped with gates so that the level of the water can be changed to raise or lower boats from one level to another.

Midden: A dunghill or refuse heap of a primitive habitation.

Mouth of river: The exit or point of discharge of a stream into another stream, a lake, or the sea.

Plover: Any of numerous shore-inhabiting birds that differ from the sandpipers in having a short hard-tipped bill and usually a stouter more compact build.

Pool: A small and rather deep body of quiet water, as water behind a dam.

Reach: A length, distance, or leg of a channel or other watercourse.

Rehabilitation: A major repair job which usually involves considerable reconstruction of already-existing structures.

Reservoir: A pond, lake, tank, basin, or other space, either natural or created in whole or in part by the building of a structure such as a dam, which is used for storage, regulation, control and release of water.

Revetment: (1) A facing of stone, concrete, or sandbags to protect a streambank from erosion; (2) a retaining wall.

Riprap: A layer, facing, or protective mound of randomly placed stones to prevent erosion, scour, or sloughing of a structure or embankment. The stone so used for this purpose is also called riprap.

Rubblemound: A type of breakwater built of large quarried rock dumped on top of each other and built to an elevation that storm waves would not overtop.

Shoal: A place in any body of water where the water is especially shallow.

Sill: A horizontal beam forming the bottom of the entrance to a lock.

Slough: (1) A small, muddy marshland or tidal waterway, which usually connects other tidal areas; (2) A side channel or inlet, as from a river or bayou, may be connected at both ends to a parent body of water.

Spillway: A waterway over a dam or other hydraulic structure used to discharge excess water to avoid overtopping of a dam.

Tributary: A stream or other body of water that contributes its water to another stream or body of water.

Turning basin: A widened area in a navigation channel or harbor area intended to allow vessels to turn around.

Uncontrolled spillway: An overflow spillway having no control gates.

Upland: Land or an area of land lying above the level where water flows or where flooding occurs.

Upstream: At or toward the source of a stream.

Waterfowl: A swimming bird, such as a goose or duck, usually frequenting freshwater areas; swimming game birds collectively.

Watershed: The whole surface drainage area that contributes water to a collecting river or lake.

Wave-absorbing breakwater: A breakwater is a structure protecting a shore area, harbor, anchorage or basin from waves. A wave-absorbing breakwater protects by absorbing, not reflecting, the waves.

Wetlands: Areas such as tidal flats or swamps that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Wing dam: A wall, crib, row of pilings, stone jetty, or other barrier projecting from the bank into a stream for protecting the bank from erosion, arresting sand movement, or for concentrating the low flow of a stream into a smaller channel.